(b) the details of proposal for international connectivity, if any, including Stillwell Road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is not such express highways project.

(b) National Highways 40, 44, 62, 151 & 152 connect North Eastern States with International Borders, Stillwell Road is not a National Highway.

Payment of Government Share in Construction of Rob on NH-4

2105. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of SURFACETRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested that 50% contribution of Government amounting to Rs. 8.59 crores should be paid immediately to CIDCO for the construction of Road Over Bridge on NH-4 near Khandeshear Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in making the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request of Government of Mahartashtra has not been agreed to. Therefore, question of delay in making payment docs not arise.

Theft of Ships

†2106. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents regarding theft of ships is on the rise now-a-days;

(b) if so, the number of incidents occurred during the last six month; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to get rid of the pirates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No case of theft of ship in Indian

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

waters has come to the notice of the Directorate General of Shipping or Coast Guards. However, according to the information available with the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters, eight incidents of piracy were reported in Indian waters during the last six months.

The Coast Guard carry out regular patrol in the Maritime Zone of India and have constant interaction with Piracy Reporting Centre, Kualalampur to thwart any attempt of piracy in Indian waters. In addition, the guidelines issued by international Maritime Organization for suppressing the acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships ae followed by shipowners, ship operators, shipping companies, ship masters and crew.

Funds for Maintenance of National Highways

†2107. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of funds provided by the Central Government during 1999 for maintenance and widening of National Highways and the target for the expenditure alongwith details thereof;

(b) the reason behind poor condition of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh has been provided with enough funds for the year 1999 for the proper maintenance of National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A statement indicating the allocation of funds for development and maintenance and repairs during 1999-2000 is enclosed, *(see* below).

(b) and (c) Over the years, there has been a shortfall of 40 to 50% in availability of M&R funds for NHs. Out of the total funds available for maintenance of NHs, Madhya Pradesh was allocated its due share. Efforts have been made to maintain all highways in traffic worthy condition.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.